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September Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Great Lakes Basin	105%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	148%
Lake Superior	64%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	118%
Lake Ontario	105%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

September Outflows From the Great Lakes

LEVEL news

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Water Levels Decline on All Lakes

Fall Storm Season Begins

Monthly average water levels on all of the Great Lakes declined from August to September. The levels of all lakes are expected to continue to decline throughout the fall and winter.

The dry conditions over the Lake Superior basin that led to the lake's early peak in levels this year continued during September. As a result, the monthly average water level of Lake Superior declined by 3 cm from August to September. Lake Superior began October about 34 cm below its long-term average which is 2 cm above of the lake's Chart Datum.

The level of Lakes Michigan-Huron declined by a near-average amount from August to September, falling about 4 cm. At the beginning of October, Lakes Michigan-Huron were 47 cm below their long-term average, 17 cm below levels recorded one year ago and 5 cm above Chart Datum. Lakes Michigan-Huron remain about 33 cm above their period-of-record low level recorded in 1964.

Both Lakes Superior and Michigan-Huron are likely to fall below their respective Chart Datum levels during October. Boaters on these lakes and throughout the entire system should exercise caution especially during periods of strong winds when localized water levels can rise or fall significantly in a very short period of time.

Water levels on Lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario all declined by more than average from August to September, falling 10, 13 and 25 cm, respectively. Lake St. Clair began October about 18 cm below its long-term average level, just slightly lower than it was at the same time last year. Lake Erie began October 8 cm below average, but was up 4 cm from last year's level. As indicated, Lake Ontario levels declined significantly from August to September. As a result, the lake began October just 2 cm above average.

Stormy Season Begins

Fall often brings storms packing high winds to the Great Lakes region. When strong winds continue to blow over a lake in one direction for a number of hours, they produce a surface tilt referred to as 'wind set-up'. At the eastern end of Lake Erie, for example, this wind set-up can cause the water level to rise over two metres on a temporary basis in less than a day. While the continuing

below-average water level conditions on Lakes Superior, Michigan-Huron and St. Clair will help reduce the risk of serious flood and erosion damage to shore property due to storms on the upper lakes, the risks are slightly higher on Lakes Erie and Ontario where near-average levels prevail.

No matter what the risk of shore property damage is, readers are reminded to exercise caution when near the water's edge during a storm. Over the years, many people standing too close to the water's edge during a storm event have been seriously injured, even killed, when swept into the lake by a storm-generated wave.

As a percentage of the long-term September average:

Lake Superior	81%
Lake Erie	95%
Lake Huron	84%
Lake Ontario	106%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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